

# 2021 Budget Proposal

PRESENTED BY:

**CONNER MACIVER, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR**



**2021 Budget Proposal – September 28, 2020**

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# Historical Anecdote

- The 'proprietors' of Barrington met in Portsmouth for many years.
- It was first voted to build a meeting-house in Barrington on March 31, 1731.
- Eleven years later, the proprietors actually appropriated 320 pounds total to build the meeting-house in 1742.
- In 1752, the meeting-house was moved to a better location where it remained until 1854.
- Nearly 300 years ago, it seemed that Barrington faced challenges and delays when building a meeting-house, but when done right, it lasted a century.



# Funding Local Government Services

- Property Tax
- Vehicle Registration
- Fees for Service
- State & Federal Aid
- Miscellaneous



## Municipal Tax Rate History

- 2014 \$4.72
- 2015 \$4.66
- 2016 \$4.59
- 2017 \$4.21\* (Assessment +8.4%)
- 2018 \$4.23
- 2019 \$3.69\* (Assessment +12.5%)



# Measures of Financial Stability

- Stable Municipal Tax Rate
  - Limited Budgetary Tax Impact for nine years  
(budget increases covered by tax base and increased revenues)
- Unassigned Fund Balance of 8%-17% as Recommended by the NH Department of Revenue Administration
  - Barrington holds an estimated \$3,894,056 or 12.4%



# Unassigned Fund Balance and Use

• Year	Balance	Used by Town Meeting
• 2013	\$ 2,779,790	\$ 399,910
• 2014	\$ 2,942,637	\$ 592,209
• 2015	\$ 3,041,459	\$ 339,463
• 2016	\$ 4,063,777	\$ 378,000
• 2017	\$ 4,460,259	\$ 726,536
• 2018	\$ 4,470,997	\$ 554,050
• 2019	\$3,979,805	\$1,320,000
• 2020	\$3,894,056	\$703,000





## Proposed Operating Budget

- Approved 2020           \$7,300,847
- Proposed 2021           \$7,271,058
  
- Difference               -\$29,789
- Difference               -0.41%



# Financial Impact of COVID-19

- Revenue
  - Local Revenues Continue to Increase
  - State Revenue Expected to Decrease in 2021 (up to \$300,000)
- Grants
  - Over \$300,000 in Grant Funds Approved so Far
- 2020 Expenditures
  - \$600,000 Remaining in 2020 Budget from Conservative Expenditures, Grant Funds, and Unused One-Time Expenses
- Financial Indicators
  - Property Tax Delinquency Below 5% (lower than five-year average)
  - Property Development Continuing
  - Motor Vehicle Registration Revenue Continuing to Increase (New Vehicles)





# 2020 Unexpended Appropriations

- Nearly \$600,000 Expected in Unexpended Appropriations
- Over \$300,000 from Expenditures Offset with Grant Funds
- Nearly \$100,000 in Planned One-Time Expenditures which Were Not Used
  - Compensation Study Implementation Fully Funded Through Census Changes
  - Funds Budgeted to Move and to Satisfy Lease Requirements Not Needed
- Conservative Budget Utilization
  - Financial Uncertainty has Limited Some Non-Essential Spending



# 2021 Budget General Information

- 2.5% Wage Increases
  - 2.5% Step for Eligible Employees
  - No Cost of Living Adjustment
  - No Top of Scale Bonus
- Benefits
  - New Hampshire Retirement: 20% Increase in Employer Contribution
  - Health Insurance: Assuming 10% Rate Increase



## Budget Increases of \$10,000+

- Hwy. Consultants      +\$35,000      to      \$35,000
  - Planned Engineering and Surveying Needs in 2021 (Young Road Bridge and Culvert, Orchard Hill, and Dam Culvert Replacement) \$12,000 transferred from Highway Layouts Line
- Hwy. Rd. Maint.      +\$10,000      to      \$40,000
  - Increase in Planned Tree Work (Deer Ridge and Beauty Hill)
- Bond Interest      +\$25,000      to      \$25,000
  - Anticipated Borrowing for Town Hall Project in 2021

\*Excluding Wages and Benefits



## Budget Decreases of \$10,000+

- Incident Fund                   -\$70,434       to       \$30,000
  - Will Continue to be Adjusted Throughout Budget Process
- Election Wages               -\$13,000       to       \$9,000
  - One Election in 2021
- Rental Lease                   -\$35,700       to       \$64,300
  - Updated Lease Agreement, Reduces Financial Impact
- Hwy. Layouts                 -\$12,000       to       \$1
  - Moved to Highway Consultants



## Budget Decreases of \$10,000+

- Winter Contractors    -\$33,000    to    \$100,000
  - Based on Last Year's Utilization and Expected 2020-2021 Utilization
- Salt and Sand    -\$32,000    to    \$178,560
  - Based on Improved Management of Salt and Sand Utilization
- Tnsfr. Wages/Benefits -\$30,000    to    \$82,000
  - Reducing Lead Attendant from Full-Time to Part-Time



# Requested Warrant Articles

- \$150,000 Bridge and Culvert Capital Reserve
- \$125,000 Highway Department Office/Garage Addition
- \$100,000 Highway Equipment Capital Reserve
- \$75,000 Library Capital Reserve
- \$60,000 Fire Truck Capital Reserve
- \$50,000 Emergency Communication Capital Reserve
- \$25,000 Swains Lake Dam Capital Reserve
- \$10,000 Fire Rescue Equipment Capital Reserve
- \$5,000 Tricentennial Celebration Expendable Trust
- \$3,500 Cemetery Capital Reserve
- \$3,000 Library Technology Capital Reserve





# Fund Balance for Capital Projects

- Responsible Investment in Capital Projects while Reducing Tax Impact
- Unexpended Appropriations are Taxes Raised
- Revenue in Excess of Projections
- Fund Balance is a Savings Account for Cash Flow and in Case of Emergency



# Executive Budget

- 01-4130-02-4111: Municipal Office Administrator
  - Transitioned to Full-Time in July
- 01-4130-09-4810: Incident Fund (-\$70,000)
  - \*To Be Evaluated Throughout Process



# Administration and General Government Buildings Budgets

- 01-4150-01-4310: Contracts
  - Slight increase in annual software and support contracts
- 01-4194-01-4441: Rental/Lease (-\$35,700)
  - Funding No Longer Necessary for Lease Requirements
- 01-4194-01-4626: Vehicle Fuel (+\$0)
  - Will Further Evaluate Usage and Reduced Fuel Costs



# Questions

- More Information
  - [www.Barrington.nh.gov/2021Budget](http://www.Barrington.nh.gov/2021Budget)
  - Entire Budget Binder Available Electronically
- Contact
  - Conner MacIver, Town Administrator
  - (603) 664-9007
  - [cmaciver@barrington.nh.gov](mailto:cmaciver@barrington.nh.gov)

